



# Tips for Techs

**Thank you for taking your time to help our band.** In most cases, we cannot possibly pay you what your services are worth. You have a very important job in our band. While members of the band staff may need to focus on the band or an entire section, you are able to focus on an individual or singular problem. Because of this, you may be as important as anyone on the field.

**Keep this in mind;**

Each time the band as a whole makes improvement, it is because individual members have improved. Therefore, fix the band one small problem at a time. This is where you are important.

- Remember, if you can help one person do something better, it is the first step to improving the entire band. This is something the director running the rehearsal can't do.
- Learn to look for specific problems.

**To be the most affective, you should;**

- Stay focused. This is hard, especially if members are your friends or if you know them. They may want to talk or laugh about something. You may need to walk away or to a different spot on the field in order to keep from being a distraction. You may want to even say "we'll talk later". Joke around and talk during breaks, but show them that there is a time for seriousness by stopping as rehearsal resumes.
- Don't be "hot and cold" with discipline and expectations. In other words, don't be serious one minute and then joke around, talk, text, or anything else the next minute. You send mixed signals.
- Find a person who is struggling and give them a short, concise tip for improvement. It may be as simple as "get your toes up", or "watch that line develop". Too much will be confusing because the director running the rehearsal has also given instructions. If you think the person you were speaking to missed a general announcement, repeat it so they know the next thing.
- Don't hover. Come back later and check, but don't make them think you are "picking on an individual".
- Remember, even if you are right, if they don't respond to you, you won't fix anything. Because improvement is your job and goal, don't be right at the cost of not doing your job. You may even want to avoid students who have responded negatively to you in the past. Again, you showing them who is in charge isn't your goal. Stay on task!
- Make sure your attitudes and comments reflect your caring for them and the band. Encourage them to care and give their best effort. Once again, do this by example as well as by what you say.
- Because you may know them or be their friends, you may have special clout or rapport that the band staff doesn't possess. Use this wisely. Show them that you expect great things from them whether you are their friends or not.
- Please do not consider yourself the only course of discipline, or yourself as the sole person whose job it is to fix every instance of misbehavior. This will only add to your stress. If your positive requests are not met, you can inform a director at an appropriate time.
- Remember, you have taken out your time to help them improve. Use this to your advantage. In other words, you're showing them with actions as well as words; "look how many people want you to be successful. Doesn't this warrant your best effort?"
- Remember to have fun doing what you love.

